

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
T	562



wn Lexington

dress 461-463 Concord Avenue

storic Name Underwood House

ie: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

ate c. 1850

Source 1852 map; stylistic ana

1920s-1930s reconstruction

Style of a Greek Revival design

Italianate

Architect Lester McKenzie (1937

Exterior wall fabric stucco

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) f

1920); rebuilt with cement block

roof lines changed, stuccoed (19

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 38700 ft.²

Setting On street with continual

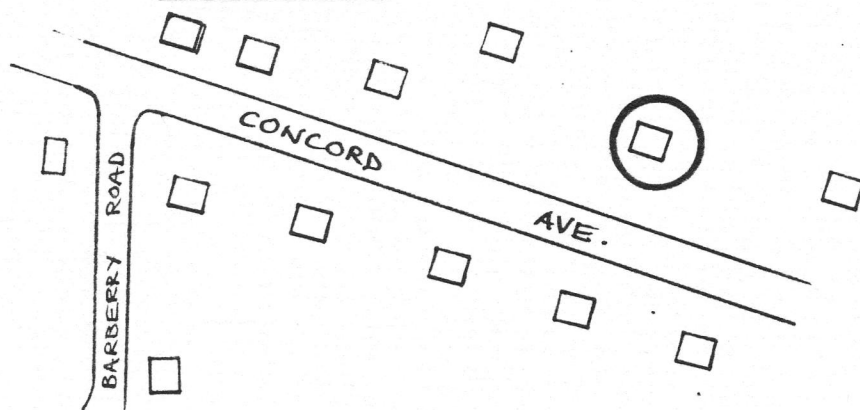
across from contemporary houses,

1950s houses; backs onto school

formerly associated with this ho

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Although this house appears to have a mid-nineteenth century profile with some Greek Revival elements, it actually is a twentieth century reconstruction on a nineteenth century granite foundation. An undated nineteenth century photograph (xerox on file with the Lexington Historical Commission) shows a three-by-two bay, two-and-a-half story gable-roofed house with basically the same profile as the present one. The additions on the original house were also in the same places and about the same size as the present

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to an antiquarian account, this property was owned at the beginning of the nineteenth century by Joseph Underwood (1749-1829), the father of the Joseph Underwood who built both the Cutler farmhouse and the house at 353 Concord Avenue (see 503 and 353 Concord Avenue forms). At that time, however, this property apparently did not include a house, for none is indicated on the 1830 map. A house in this location does appear on the 1852 map and was owned by John Underwood (1780-1855), son of the original owner. In 1876 the house was owned by Royal T. Bryant, a farmer, and in 1906 by his widow Sarah H. Bryant.

Sometime between 1906 and the 1920s the original house was destroyed by fire, for the one that was rebuilt has decorative courses of rusticated cement block of a type popular in the 1920s. In 1928 the property was owned by William L. McCullough, who owned 21 cows and was apparently in the dairy business. In 1937 the house and 53 acres of land were bought for taxes by Charles Teeter, a professor, and his wife; they altered the house as described above and farmed the land until the late 1940s. The property was then sold and subdivided and, by the time the present owners acquired it in 1955, consisted of just the present house lot.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, II, p. 715. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End" (1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II(1900):104.

1830 map

1852 map

1876 map

1889 map

1906 map

1887 Directory

1906 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 562
Property Name: 461-463 Concord Avenue	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

ones: an Italianate portico instead of the present closed entry, a two-story shed-roofed ell in place of the present gabled one, and a space for wagons underneath a one-story shed where the present garage now is. There was also a large barn on the east side of the property.

After the fire, a cement block house was rebuilt on the original foundation which was essentially of the original proportions except that the main house had a hip roof with dormers. The owners who bought the house in 1937 hired architect Lester McKenzie to modify it; he put the gable roof on both the main house and two-story ell, added the Greek Revival entablatures, and stuccoed the exterior (Martha Teeter, personal communication). No part of the original house remains with the possible exception of the garage, which is now a separate apartment and was not visited. The barn was demolished before 1950 but the foundation is still visible.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Nineteenth century photo showing house originally on the foundation.

